



Brussels, 8 September 2025

Urgent: Condemnation of threats against citizens, press, MEPs and political representatives.

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear President Costa,
Dear President Metsola,

We are writing to urgently draw your attention to a deeply concerning development in Serbia that directly affects European citizens, the country's EU enlargement perspective, and Members of the European Parliament and the European Green Party.

For the past ten months, Serbia has witnessed the most powerful civic mobilization in recent history. Citizens, students, workers, teachers, cultural figures, and above all young people, are taking to the streets to demand accountability, transparency, and democracy.

These demonstrations deserve protection as in European democracy, not repression. As European Greens, we have always stood firmly in support of peaceful demonstrations as a cornerstone of democratic society.

At the same time, Serbia is a candidate country for EU membership. This status comes with responsibilities: to uphold democratic principles, respect freedom of speech and assembly, and guarantee the role of independent media. President Vučić's authoritarian rhetoric and repressive actions are directly undermining Serbia's European perspective and betraying the aspirations of its citizens for a democratic and European future.

Finally, on Friday, 5 September, in a late-night televised address, President Vučić repeatedly referred to the European Green Party delegation -composed of Vula Tsetsi, Co-Chair of the European Green Party Green and MEP Rasmus Nordqvist, member of the European Green Party Committee -as "scum," and explicitly threatened to prosecute them. These attacks followed a press conference in the National Assembly of Serbia with our Serbian member party, the Green-Left Front, and our show of solidarity with peaceful demonstrators in Novi Sad.

Such personal insults, threats of prosecution, intimidation, and disinformation from the Head of State of an EU candidate country go far beyond political disagreement. They are an attack on European democracy itself, on civic freedoms in Serbia, and on the European political family.

We therefore respectfully urge you to:

1. Publicly condemn these threats, intimidation, and disinformation campaigns against European political representatives and democratic actors.
2. Monitor closely and urgently the situation in Serbia, in particular the treatment of peaceful protesters, opposition parties, and independent media.
3. Reaffirm that candidate countries must uphold the highest democratic standards, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the protection of visiting European representatives.

The European Union cannot remain silent in the face of authoritarian rhetoric, intimidation, and disinformation.

We kindly urge you to defend European values, show support for the citizens of Serbia, and convey that such threats are unacceptable.

Yours sincerely,

Ciarán Cuffe and Vula Tsetsi
Co-Chairs of the European Green Party

Rasmus Nordqvist
European Green Party Committee Member and Member of the European Parliament

Terry Reintke and Bas Eickhout
Co-Presidents of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament